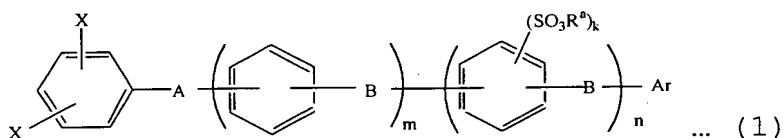


ABSTRACT

Disclosed is an aromatic sulfonic acid ester derivative represented by the formula (1);



5 in the formula, X is an atom or a group selected from a halogen atom excluding fluorine, $-\text{OSO}_3\text{CH}_3$ and $-\text{OSO}_3\text{CF}_3$, A is a divalent electron attractive group, B is a divalent electron donating group or a direct bonding, R^a is a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms, Ar is an

10 aromatic group having a substituent of $-\text{SO}_3\text{R}^b$ (wherein R^b is a hydrocarbon group of 1 to 20 carbon atoms), m is an integer of 0 to 10, n is an integer of 0 to 10 and k is an integer of 1 to 4. Also disclosed is a process for producing a polyarylene having a sulfonic acid group,

15 which process comprises the steps of coupling polymerization of an aromatic compound containing the derivative of the formula (1), to prepare a polyarylene and hydrolysis of the polyarylene, and which process has high safety and is easily capable of controlling the

20 amount of sulfonoc acid group introduced into a polymer and the introducing position thereof.